

BUSINESS CRIME WATCH

BAY CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

May 2018

EDITION 3, VOLUME 5

3 Ways to Protect Against Vandalism

Graffiti, broken windows, damaged doors, pulled fire alarms, equipment theft, arson, squatters, property defacement, landscape sabotage – no matter its form or intention, vandalism is an unsightly mess and an unnecessary expense.

A single instance of vandalism acts like a ripple in a pond, having greater implications than the initial event. Vandalism can increase your area's crime rate, contribute to neighborhood blight, decrease your property value, result in repeated maintenance, incur repair costs, cause delays to construction projects, and inhibit leasing agreements.

You can put a dollar figure on what it will take to repair or renovate an act of vandalism, but how do you put a price on missing tenant rent, delays to construction schedules, or lost revenue traction? These opportunity costs are hard to measure but are a real cost nonetheless. Whether deliberate or unintentional, vandalism can undermine your company's image and business message. You also don't want it to shake your employees' confidence in the building's safety.

While no building is immune to willful destruction, you can effectively reduce your risk by taking preventive measures. Protect your assets by implementing these three steps.

1) IDENTIFY WEAKNESSES

Anticipate the reasons your property could be vandalized. Is your property frequented by groups that will inflict malicious destruction for fun?

Once you identify the groups likely to target your building, assess your facility from the eyes of a vandal. Look for weak perimeter points, unlit areas good for hiding, architectural features ideal for defacement, and valuable equipment prime for stealing. By creating a list of vulnerable areas, you can outline how to improve your security.

2) DETER AND DEFLECT

Vandalism occurs when vandals think they can get away with it. If there's inadequate lighting, open entrances, or no barriers, it's an open invitation.

Buildings that don't have visible surveillance monitoring or are lax about visitor management are also exposed. Even something as simple as unkempt landscaping could send the message that the building isn't under a watchful eye.

There are a number of strategies you can use to deter and deflect vandals. Regardless of your building setup, you need to create physical and psychological barriers.

Physical and technological barriers can also keep ill intentions at bay. Fences, gates, ID card access, strategic lighting, protective landscaping, and limited access points all make it difficult to waltz onto your property.

Visual security clues are major deterrents, such as the presence of security guards, noticeable security cameras, and surveillance signage.

Security alarms should round out these practices to ensure proper notification of a disturbance.

3) RESPOND IMMEDIATELY

In the event of vandalism, swift action is one of your greatest allies. A primary goal of vandals is to have their destruction put on display. Remove this satisfaction by immediately wiping out evidence of their acts.

Make sure you also communicate with building occupants. Let them know what happened and what's being done to resolve it.

Lastly, have procedures in place that allow you to reroute maintenance crew for cleanup, retain a restoration company to repair damaged items, and ensure that your security force can be temporarily increased. You should also completely inspect the building for overlooked damage.

Accounting for criminal acts should be part of your emergency response plan. While it may not endanger life safety, you need to have a plan of action in place so vandalism doesn't impact your business continuity.

April Activity:

04/06 – Attempted larceny of safe and suspicious activity. Two black male subjects, 25-30 years old, driving a blue Ford Taurus with Ohio registration plate entered a west side convenience store. One subject distracted the clerk while the other attempted to steal a small safe. The case is under investigation.

04/06 – Strong arm robbery of a west side convenience store. The suspect was captured 2 days later committing another robbery within Bay County. The case is under investigation.

04/21 – An attempted retail fraud of an east side convenience store. A female, 20-30 years old, 5'1", approximately 100 pounds attempted to steal a cell phone power bank. The clerk saw the female concealing the item and confronted her before she tried to leave. The case is under investigation.

04/23 – Retail fraud complaint at a west side convenience store. A white male suspect, 25-28 years old, 6', 175 pounds, entered the store and stole three bottles of liquor then ran out to his vehicle. Suspect left in a black Jeep SUV type vehicle. The case is under investigation.

04/26 – A school on the east side has been getting vandalized. A teenage male was identified as the suspect damaging windows. A BCDPS officer was able to get the suspect to confess and his parents paid for the damages to the school.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATE

During the month of April, the Bay City Department of Public Safety handled the following calls:

- Responded to or self-initiated 1,870 law enforcement related incidents
- Made 505 traffic stops
- Wrote 396 reports
- Took 60 traffic crash reports

For more information on what is happening in your neighborhood, go to www.crimemapping.com





Lights, Camera, Action Movie Nights

The Bay City Department of Public Safety has partnered with the State Theatre, the Citizen District Councils and the Bay City Little League organizations to bring you outdoor movie night. Admission is free, including a free bag of popcorn and this event is open to the public. Public safety vehicles will also be on display. All movies will start at dusk (approximately 9pm).

May 18th– North West Little League Field

Defoe Park off Marquette Ave

"The Incredibles"

June 1st– South West League Field

Crump Street behind Kolb School

"The Perfect Game"

June 8th · South End Little League Field

Grant Street & 34th Street

"Despicable Me"

June 15th· North East Little League Field

Corner of Woodside Ave & Trumbull

"Wonder"

June 22nd- Bay County Child & Senior Center

Corner of Broadway & Fremont St

"Coco"

Bay City Department of Public Safety Community Policing Unit
989-892-5900



SAVE THE DATE



**Tuesday August 7th
5pm – 8pm**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO JOIN US FOR



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

This year's event will be held at
1 East Main Street in Uptown Bay City

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW